



Operational oceanographic forecasting system for Southeastern Levantine

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Operational oceanographic system for Southeastern Levantine System (ELEV-SHELF) covers domain from 33.50° to 35.66° E and from 31.00° to 33.61° N with horizontal resolution ~ 1.5 km. The vertical resolution is 24 sigma layers. The boundary conditions are taken from University of Athens ALERMO model, and forcing is SKIRON atmospheric model. The core of the system is Princeton Oceanographic Model (POM), adapted to run operationally at IOLR for SouthEastern Levantine shelf in framework of MFSTEP WP9 - "Forecasting at the regional scale and modeling at the shelf scale". The system runs on daily basis, providing 84-hours forecast of sea surface height, sea temperature, salinity and currents, published immediately after finish of computations on the web (<http://isramar.ocean.org.il/ShelfMode>).

To evaluate system performance its results were intercompared to ALERMO model results and to climatological fields. Another comparison was made with observations from Haifa section cruises (carried out four times per year, seasonally), which are not assimilated into the system.